

Message Text

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12
ACTION SCS-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SCA-01 SSO-00 L-03 H-02 DHA-02

/022 W

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P R 161219Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY DOHA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1735
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

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DEPT ALSO FOR NEA/ARP

E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS: CASC, PFOR, QA
SUBJ: RAPE OF AMCIT CREATES FEAR AMONG AMERICAN OIL-RELATED
COMPANIES' PERSONNAL

1. THE AUGUST 2 RAPE OF AN AMCIT WIFE OF A HALLIBURTON EMPLOYEE
IN HER HOME IN DOHA HAS PRODUCED CONSIDERABLE SCARE IN AMERICAN
COMMUNITY AND LED TWO HALLIBURTON FAMILIES IN DOHA AND
TWO MORE IN DUBAI TO REQUEST RETURN TO U.S. EMBASSY BELIVES
MUCH OF FEAR WILL BE DISPELLED IF THE TWO RAPIESTS RECEIVE FIRM
SENTENCES AND EMBASSY HAS MADE INFORMAL REPRESENTATIONS TO
APPROPRIATE GOQ OFFICIALS TO THAT END. RUMORS OF NUMEROUS
RAPES AND LIGHT SENTENCES HAVE BEEN WIDELY BELIEVED DESPITE
EFFORTS BY EMBASSY TO PROVIDE FACTS. FACTS, HOWEVER,
ARE NOT TOO BRIGHT SINCE THERE HAVE BEEN THREE REPORTED
RAPES WITHIN AS MANY MONTHS.

2. THE ATTACK TOOK PLACE IN EARLY MORNING HOURS OF AUGUST 2
AS TWO QATARIS, UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL, BROKE DOWN
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DOOR OF AMCIT'S HOME AND COMMITTED RAPE. POLICE CAPTURED TWO

SUSPECTS WITHIN HOURS AND OBTAINED SIGNED CONFESSIONS. EMBASSY HEARD RUMOR OF RAPE AND WAS ABLE TO CONFIRM NEWS WITH POLICE ON AUGUST 5. AS NEITHER THE AGGRIEVED PARTIES NOR COMPANY HAD REPORTED CRIME TO EMBASSY, EMBASSY CONTACTED HALLIBURTON AND HUSBAND OF VICTIM TO ASK IF EMBASSY COULD ASSIST. BOTH WANTED INFO ON WHEN TRIAL WOULD BE HELD AND WHETHER VICTIM'S PRESENCE WAS REQUIRED AT TRIAL. EMBASSY REQUESTED ASSISTANCE OF POLICE CHIEF WHO HAD TRIAL MOVED UP FROM EARLIER SCHEDULED DATE ABOUT SIX MONTHS IN FUTURE. TRIAL HELD AT 0800 NEXT MORNING (AUGUST 11) WITH ONLY ONE HOUR NOTICE TO VICTIM, WHO HAD NO TIME TO CONTACT CONSOFF WHO HAD VOLUNTEERED TO ATTEND TRIAL IF VICTIMS DESIRED. EMBASSY LEARNED THAT SHARI' COURT DECISION WOULD BE HANDED DOWN ON AUGUST 18. ALSO LEARNED FROM COURT CLERK THAT JUDGE, SHAYKH HAJIR, WAS CONSIDERING "TOUGH" SENTENCE OF "FIVE OR SIX MONTHS" AND "100 LASHES." CONSOFF EXPRESSED DISMAY AT LENIENCY OF PRISON SENTENCE AND COURT CLERK TELEPHONED BACK WITHIN FIVE MINUTES TO SAY HE HAD MISUNDERSTOOD JUDGE WHO HAD SAID "NOT LESS THAN SIX MONTHS."

3. SHAYKH HAJIR AGREED TO MEET WITH HALLIBURTON REP, R.W. MCKINZE, AND CONSOFF ON AUGUST 16. HALLIBURTON REP CHOSE NOT RPT NOT TO SPEAK. CONSOFF EXPRESSED CONCERN OF AMERICAN EMBASSY AND COMMUNITY IN CASE AND DESCRIBED FEAR OF LOCAL AMERICANS. EXPRESSING COMPLETE CONFIDENCE IN LOCAL JUDICIAL SYSTEM, CONSOFF SAID MUCH OF THIS FEAR COULD BE DISPELLED, PROVIDED GUILTY PARTIES RECEIVED SENTENCES THAT WOULD BE DETERRENT AND IN LINE WITH SENTENCES HANDED DOWN IN RAPE CASES INVOLVING NON-AMERICANS. JUDGE SAID THAT HE WAS THINKING IN TERMS OF ONE YEAR EACH FOR CRIME OF RAPE (TWO YEARS HAD THE RAPISTS BEEN MARRIED), THREE TO FOUR MONTHS EACH FOR DRUNKINNESS WHILE THEY COMMITTED THE RAPE, 100 LASHES EACH FOR RAPE AND 40 LASHES EACH FOR DRUNKENNESS. JUDGE GAVE ASSURANCES THAT ALL RESIDENTS ARE REGARDED EQUAL REGARDLESS OF NATIONALITY, AND THAT CONTEMPLATED SENTENCES WERE THE NORM IN SUCH CASES.

4. MOST HIGH RANKING QATARIS EMBASSY WOULD NORMALLY CONTACT ARE OUT OF COUNTRY. EMBASSY WILL CONTACT RANKING QATARI IN MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND PETROLEUM TO EXPRESS CONCERN IN MATTER AND ALSO DISCUSS IMPLICATION TO OIL INDUSTRY IF AMERICANS AND OTHER WESTERNS EMPLOYED THEREIN REFUSE TO WORK IN QATAR OVER FEARS FOR THE SAFETY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF WOMEN. QPC, SEDCO, AND SCHLUMBERGER, ALL FIRMS ENGAGED IN OIL OPERATIONS HERE, ARE ALSO CONCERNED OVER CASE. AFTER FACT OF RAPE INCIDENT, AND EMBASSY'S TAKING INITIATIVE ON CASE, HALLIBURTON WROTE AMB LETTER REQUESTING REPRESENTATION TO GOQ TO ASSURE FIRM SENTENCE AGAINST RAPISTS. WE HAVE RECEIVED LETTERS OF CONCERN OVER RAPE FROM SEDCO AND SCHLUMBERGER ALSO ASKING THAT EMBASSY MAKE REPRESENTATION TO GOQ.

5. EMBASSY IS CONTACTING AMCITS TO PRESENT THEM WITH OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN FACTS RATHER THAN RUMORS, TO REASSURE THEM OF EMBASSY CONCERN, AND TO OUTLINE ACTIONS EMBASSY HAS TAKEN ON CASE.
PAGANELLI

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